



## Pooch needs help

Fort Erie resident asking for donations of scrap metal to raise funds for vet bills



## Transit troubles

Service interrupted due to vandalism

Artists needed for upcoming Crystal Beach event. See page 34.

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online  
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## On the hunt for sweet treats



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Eight-month-old Cobain Rockey-Stewart celebrated his first Easter by attending the egg hunt at the Village Square in Ridgeway with his mom, Allison, and dad, Dan, on Saturday. For more photos from Easter egg hunts in Crystal Beach, Ridgeway and Stevensville see page 35.

## Raising the flag for autism

Town recognizes World Autism Day

Josh Thomas  
Special to The Times

Fort Erie is raising a flag and awareness about autism.

The Town of Fort Erie joined 550 towns and cities across Ontario in recognizing Autism Ontario's Raise The Flag campaign Thursday.

This year marks the third year of the campaign which aims to celebrate World Autism Day and raise awareness for autism.

According to Autism Ontario, Autism Spectrum Disorder is a life-long neurological disorder that affects the way a person communicates and relates the people around them.

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# Central Avenue Bridge replacement underway

**Josh Thomas**

Special to The Times

Central Avenue Bridge is set to undergo a much needed facelift.

The \$12.5 million project that began this month and will conclude in July 2016 will see a new bridge installed in place of the original that has been up and running since 1953.

The Town of Fort Erie hosted an open house, with representatives from the region on hand to answer any questions the public had about the project.

"Right now it's a five span

structure, but it's going to be upgraded to a continuous three span structure, so it's a modernization of the existing structure," said Terry Gibson.

The Central Avenue Bridge is the fastest way to reach downtown Bridgeburg. The closure of the bridge for an extended period of time would cause problems for business owners in the downtown area. Many trucks would also need to be detoured due to height restrictions.

To address these concerns, Hatch Mott MacDonald, the company handling the project, will only shut the bridge

down for a period of two weeks next winter.

"This involves rapid bridge construction, so we're actually building the new structure offline to the immediate west of the existing structure and that's going to occur in the first couple of stages and then were going to be closing central avenue for two weeks," Gibson said.

Detour routes will be in place and Project Engineer Jason Marr said business owners will be contacted to work out a way for deliveries to be made on time during that two week closure period.

Central Avenue Bridge replacement

• The Central Avenue Bridge is undergoing a much needed replacement.

• The project will cost \$12.5 million.

• It will go from April 2015 to July 2016.

• Central Avenue Bridge will be shut down for a two-week period yet to be determined next winter. The bridge will be upgraded and modernized.

## Friends of Crystal Beach



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# Wayne Gates pressures premier to return slots to Fort Erie

**Sarah Ferguson**  
Fort Erie Times

MPP Wayne Gates won't rest until he sees the return of slots and gaming revenue to the Fort Erie Race Track.

Gates asked Premier Kathleen Wynne to return the slots program to the Fort Erie's track during Thursday's session at Queen's Park.

By returning the slots program and encouraging new development in the region, Gates said the track could become self-sustainable.

The MPP will continue to raise awareness about the need for gaming revenue at Fort Erie's historic racetrack.

"It's important to continue to

put our case in front of the decision makers. We don't want to be using provincial tax dollars and we don't want to be using the Town's tax dollars," Gates said.

The loss of the revenue from gaming has caused the Town of Fort Erie to chip in \$500,000 to keep the racetrack for another season, he added.

Gates told the Premier that the Town has kicked in the extra funding "to cover the loss of gaming funds that resulted when the (provincial) government ripped out the slot machines in Fort Erie and never put them back."

With support from the province, Gates said he believed the racetrack could become self-sustainable over the course of

the next few years.

"The Town of Fort Erie and Jim Thibert (the general manager of the Fort Erie Economic Development and Tourism Corporation) have put together a business plan to become self-sustainable," Gates said.

According to Gates, Wynne directed Gates' question to Jeff Leal, minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, who didn't answer it.

Gates said he will continue to press the matter.

"My theory is, if we just raised the question about bringing gaming revenue back to the racetrack once, we'd forget about it. I think it's important to continue to put it front and centre."

[sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca](mailto:sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca)

2015

## Bridgewater

## WOMEN'S BUSINESS LEAGUE



- Registration fee is \$100.00 plus HST and it includes Wine & Cheese Orientation on Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> and a Year End Banquet on Tuesday, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>
- League is 9 holes & restricted to a total of 80 Women
- Green fees and weekly prize fund is \$22.00 HST included
- Cart fees are \$8.50 per person HST included - if desired
- Tee times are from 4:30 till 6:00 each Tuesday
- League will run from April 28<sup>th</sup> to Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 50/50 draw each week - draw money will be used for year end prizes
- Chef Wayne Purpura will have a weekly dinner special which is optional
- Each week there will be some sort of contest and/or random draw for prizes
- Tee times can be made individually by calling the Pro Shop
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## Easter celebration



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

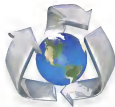
The Fort Erie Optimist Club donated space from its Gilmore Road club house to the Niagara Area Children's Assistance Program last week. NACAP volunteers filled and wrapped 175 Easter baskets which were distributed to children in need this past weekend. From left are Optimist and Opti-Mrs members Marion Woodcock, Daniel St. Michel and Eileen Reynolds.

## Fort Erie LaFrance Association receives community support

The Central Fire Station recently donated \$600 to the Fort Erie LaFrance Association.

The association restores and cares for numerous antique firefighting apparatus dating back to the 1840s.

The Fort Erie LaFrance Association Museum was opened in 1986 to preserve and display these historical apparatus. Incorrect information was provided to the Fort Erie Times in an article featured in last week's paper.



## LIONS CLUB OF FORT ERIE Roast Beef Dinner

Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Lions Seniors Centre at 265 High Street from 5 pm to 7 pm

• Adults \$11.00

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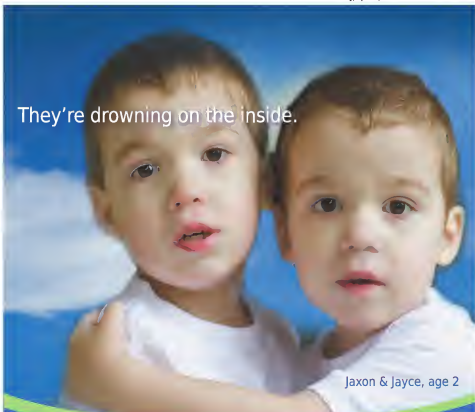
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Jaxon & Jayce, age 2

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# Opinion page

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## Don't bet on slots returning to Fort Erie

It has been nearly three years since Fort Erie got dumped.

Like a philanthropic partner looking for someone more hip and cool, the province gave the town the ol' it's not you, it's me speech on April 30, 2012, when it yanked the slots out of the Fort Erie Race Track.

It hurt then, it still hurts now. More than 200 jobs vanished that day in an already beleaguered town. And for what?

The long excuse back then, according to Dalton McGuinty's Liberals, was that gambling facilities in border towns were still making money—just not as much as they used to. So to prop up the big casinos (Palliser, Rama, Caesar's Windsor), a few of the little guys had to be sacrificed. "In the current reality, having facilities within nine or 10 kilometres of each other... (doesn't) make sense," said OLG president (at the time) Rod Phillips.

You might recall Phillips resigned early last year when it became apparent his "modernization" plans for gaming didn't sync up with those of the new premier, Kathleen Wynne.

Since Wynne took over, Fort Erie has been waiting by the phone, hoping for a second chance. If she wasn't thrilled with what the OLG was doing, couldn't she reverse some of those decisions and plug those slots back in?

Niagara Falls MPP Wynne Gates got tired of waiting Thursday. In the equivalent of a drunk phone call after getting dumped, he begged her to take Fort Erie back. Let's forget this whole mess and just go back to how things were. At Queen's Park, Gates directly asked Wynne to return the slots, telling her the town now has to provide \$500,000 to keep the Fort Erie Race Track open.

"The money is being given by the town to cover the loss of gaming funds that resulted when your government ripped out the slot machines in Fort Erie and never put them back," he said.

Wynne couldn't duck the issue fast enough, passing it off to Jeff Leal, the

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, who gave an idiotic, back-patting response about helping the horse racing industry in Ontario: "We're galloping forward."

It's everything I hate about politics in one sickening, two-minute clip: A question is asked concerning the livelihoods of real people, and a garbage answer is given to the applause of back-benching seals. Gates had to try. This issue, I suspect, is a huge reason he was elected.

But as a politician, he already knows the answer. Fort Erie is so far in Wynne's rearview mirror, she'd need one of her assistants to find it again.

The "modernization" of gaming in Ontario means directing traffic to the new online gambling site, PlayOLG.com.

It means a second push to open a Toronto casino, and without Rob Ford in the mayor's seat—and the councillors who automatically voted 'no' to anything he pitched—it's a very real possibility this time.

It means less concern about border cities, where Ontario's casinos used to thrive, and more about large urban centres. Go where the people already are, instead of where they might go. That scenario no longer favours the house. We soaked U.S. gamblers for a good decade or so, but they've moved on. So is the OLG.

Samia Mayor Mike Bradley summed it up best three years ago. Along with Fort Erie and Windsor, his town also lost its race track slots, killing 140 jobs. With the wound still fresh, he warned other municipalities about flirting with the OLG: "It was like dealing with The Sopranos," he said. "They came in today bringing a letter from the chairman to give us to say that the relationship's over. They did not respect the host communities."

To which Tony Soprano might respond: "One thing about us wisegays, the hustle never ends."

—John Law

john.law@sunmedia.ca



## Do You Remember?

Last week's photo of the pie-in-the-face gang was such a good April Fool's photo that it fooled everyone and will remain in the unidentified people binders.

Thank you to those who phoned in about the previous week's photo of the FESS stu-

dents to let us know that the boy second from the left is Carey Gagne and not Gagnon. We always appreciate being able to set the record straight on photos that are now in our permanent archives.

Who are these sweet children

holding their prize chocolate bunnies? The little boy in the middle has one that is almost his size! If you remember these children or where this event was held, please call the Fort Erie Historical Museum at 905-884-5322 or e-mail us at museum@forterie.on.ca

## Fledgling reporter 'excited' to be involved in the community

To the readers of the Fort Erie Times, I would like to introduce myself and express my excitement in getting the opportunity to spend the next month covering the news you care about and hearing your points of view on different matters.

My name is Josh Thomas; I am a student in my graduating year in Niagara College's Journalism program. I have served as a reporter, photo-



**Josh Thomas**  
Special to The Times

grapher and editor for our school and community paper, Niagara News, maybe you have seen a copy in your local Avondale?

I have spent the last seven months covering the Niagara College Knights, while learning how to cover various topics and events in the classroom. I attended every Niagara Knights women's volleyball games, home and away, learning and bettering my writing and pho-

tography each and every time. One of my biggest joys at Niagara College was getting fans of the team involved through my articles and multimedia, and helping them experience the roller coaster that was the 2014-2015 Season that ended in a Bronze medal at the provincial championships.

I am excited to have the opportunity to do the same for you, to get involved with the

community and bring you the news you care about with the accuracy you expect.

Over the next month I won't only be learning what life in the Field is like, I will also be learning all that I can about the community of Fort Erie, and the history behind Fort Erie.

I would like to make it clear I am available to you at any time over the next month if you have a story you need to tell, or if you would simply like

to give feedback. I am available through the Fort Erie Times at (phone number goes here) and via email: joshthomasmedia@gmail.com. please do not hesitate to use these if necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity, I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible and learning your stories.

Josh Thomas is a Niagara College Journalism student.

# Opinion page

## 'Cancer warrior' to share story of survival

Spring has sprung and it's time to celebrate at the Fort Erie Public Library with stories and crafts chosen especially for two-to-seven year-olds with a focus on this long-awaited season.

Join us this afternoon at 3:30 p.m. at the Stevensville branch; on Thursday, April 16 at 6 p.m. at the Centennial branch; or on Wednesday, April 22 at 3:30 p.m. at the Crystal Ridge branch.

There is a fee of \$2 per child or \$5 per family, and pre-registration is requested.

Tonight, Nicole Kidman and Tim Roth star as Princess Grace and Prince Rainier of Monaco in *Grace of Monaco*, a biographical drama depicting a short period in the lives of the



**Amy Roebuck**  
Fort Erie Public Library

former Hollywood star and her royal husband, during a marriage crisis and a political dispute in the early 1960s.

This film will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Centennial branch, and will encore in a Tuesday afternoon matinee, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Crystal Ridge branch

on April 14.

Paddington Bear will appear onscreen at the Crystal Ridge branch this Saturday, April 11, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Hugh Bonneville, of Downton Abbey fame, will add interest for grown-ups bringing young ones to see Paddington.

If you like to meet with congenial folks and other avid readers to discuss books you have enjoyed, but you aren't keen on what other book groups are reading, you may want to try the Speculative Fiction Café at the Crystal Ridge branch of the library this evening at 7 p.m.

Fans of fantasy, science fiction and even some horror gather to discuss authors and books each month, and everyone is



**Alana Somerville**

welcome.

Many people say that having cancer means fighting battles every day of your life.

Alana Somerville, a local teacher, learned that when she received a diagnosis of cancer.

She became both a warrior and a survivor, and she

has a story to share. Somerville's book *Chemoshabe: cancer warrior*, is a series of life lessons which will help others navigate any fears they may have, as they or their loved ones face this life-changing pronouncement, an event which is all too common. Every three minutes, another Canadian hears the words "you have cancer" for the first time.

If cancer has touched your life, or if you simply want to hear a true story of tremendous challenges faced with courage and humour, come to the Centennial branch of the library on Wednesday, April 15 at 7 p.m. to meet Alana Somerville.

Copies of her book will be available for sale. Representatives of the

Canadian Cancer Society will also be on hand to answer questions. Somerville's book *Chemoshabe: cancer warrior* and many other resources are available in the library collection.

Some of these are: The Ultimate Guide to Breast Cancer; your essential resource from diagnosis to treatment and beyond, by Mary Gemignani; The Mayo Clinic Breast Cancer Book; Reclaiming Your Life after Diagnosis: the cancer support community handbook by Kim Thibouldeux and the graphic novel by Marifa Marchetto, Cancer Vixen.

*Amy Roebuck is the Community Services Coordinator at the Fort Erie Public Library.*

## Citizens need to become more informed about their community

As a freelance reporter with the Fort Erie Times I get to attend events or community happenings that I wouldn't normally attend or get involved with (or actually know anything about if I'm being honest).

Last week I had the opportunity to attend the State of Fort Erie breakfast as I did last year as well. The event is hosted by the Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce with guest panelists Mayor Wayne Redekop, Fort Erie Chamber President Rick Phibbs, and Fort Erie Economic Development & Tourism Manager Jim Thibert. Anyone can attend the



**Annie Pasquariello**  
Special to The Times

event, not just chamber members or local businesses. I did learn that events like these do help the community as money raised helps the chamber with the many student bursaries

they give to youth in the community. In 2014, they were able to give 12 bursaries to deserving students.

Although politicians can speak in rhetoric, the morning was too short to allow for that and the speakers were informative and honest about what is happening in Fort Erie.

What I did notice from last year to this year were the attendees. Last year was a campaign year and the event happened before we were to vote in the by-election. The crowd last year was regional and municipal councillors, and candidates in said by-election because they obviously care about

Fort Erie and care what happens to Fort Erie.

Fort Erie also seems to have a lot of complainers who were not in the audience. Is it because there doesn't seem to be as much drama in 2015 (so far) with the new council or things seem to be running smoothly in town? Do we only want to know what is going when it gives us a sensationalized story?

Mayor Redekop seems confident about the new council and noted his and their objectives while Thibert talked openly about setbacks in town and how to change those. These issues are still important, if

not even more important than last year. There are some promising projects for Fort Erie, but they won't happen without community support and government support.

As a voter and not a reporter, I did wonder where everyone was. There's no story there, except a reason why people lose faith in their government. I get it, people work or maybe don't want to spend the money on a ticket to attend, but I'm sure someone who works in government can take a morning and visit one of their constituents especially one whose votes they all so des-

perately wanted. As a citizen it concerns me that we just think we can rely on council or the EDC to change the outcome of what is happening in town. We all need to do that.

I do hope the chamber continues with creative ways to get people involved, but I hope people start going for the right reasons, not just a photo opportunity or a vote. I think you get votes by kissing babies anyway.

*Annie Pasquariello is a resident of Fort Erie and a freelance reporter for the Fort Erie Times*

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Front row from left to right, Rachael Siciliano (General Manager/CEO), Larry Hippie (President of the Board) receiving a refund cheque from Lloyd Roseboom (Vice-President of the Board), Domenic Ioannoni (Director) and David Gill (Director). Back row from left to right, John Dekker (Director), David Wiley (Director), Phillip Lambert (Director), Brian Heaslip (Director) and Howard Augustine (Director) at Bertie and Clinton's head office.

**Bertie and Clinton** is a local Mutual Insurance Company that specializes in providing farm insurance to its owning members. By insuring with the company, you can also become a part owner and have a voice in how the company is run. Recently, the company declared a refund from surplus of 20% on property, liability and automobile premiums in 2014. Approximately \$2,370,000 was refunded to the policyholders provided they had been insured for at least one year and their policy was in force at December 31, 2014. Bertie and Clinton has declared a refund from surplus in eighteen of the last twenty-two years and has provided insurance for the Niagara Peninsula residents since 1880.

The company is run by nine directors who are elected by the policyholders at the Annual meeting. Each of the nine directors are elected for a three year term, with three being elected each year. At our 135th Annual Meeting held March 31, 2015 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Fonthill, Brian Heaslip of Wellandport and Lloyd Roseboom of Port Colborne were re-elected as Directors and John Dekker of Port Colborne was also elected as a Director, for a three year term.

Larry Hippie of Beamsville was elected to serve the Company as the President of the Board and Lloyd Roseboom of Port Colborne will serve the Company as the Vice-President of the Board, for the 2015-2016 year. Rachael Siciliano of Welland is the General Manager/CEO.

On March 1, 2015, one of our Agents, Dale Hagar, began his well-deserved Retirement. Mr. Hagar was a Director on our Board from 1977 to 1986, serving as President of the Board in 1981. From 1986 to 2015, Mr. Hagar served as an Agent for Bertie and Clinton. We would like to thank Dale for his dedication to Bertie and Clinton Mutual and we wish him the very best on his Retirement. Judi Black of Welland has been hired as an Agent to service a portion of Mr. Hagar's Policyholders. We are also currently searching for another candidate to help in servicing Mr. Hagar's Policyholders who are currently being serviced by other Agents working from our Office.

We have recently launched our newly redesigned Website and are happy to provide an online credit card payment option. Please do visit our new website at [bertieandclinton.com](http://bertieandclinton.com) to see what we've done.

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Paris, je t'aime



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Peace Bridge Public School's Grade 4 has been learning about the history of the Mona Lisa and the city where she resides, Paris. Their lessons have jumped from the pages of books to real life when they celebrated Visit To Paris Week last Wednesday. They ordered French food in a cafe, and toured different sites of Paris. The grade 4 class organized the event and served as tour guides, waiters and photographers. Christian Noreigh enjoyed a view of the Eiffel Tower.

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**Michael Stefaniuk**



# Pet owner seeks assistance to treat ailing canine

Sarah Ferguson  
Fort Erie Times

Seven-year-old Tucker, a Blue Heeler-Boxer mix, needs surgery to remove a piece of plastic that has embedded itself in his tongue.

But his owner, Fort Erie's Rejeanne Asselin, said she needs to come up with at least \$800 to pay for his medical bills before Tucker can receive treatment.

Tucker's sedation and examination alone will cost about \$257, not including taxes. Asselin isn't sure of the exact amount it will cost to remove the plastic embedded in Tucker's tongue.

"The vet couldn't give me an exact estimate," Asselin said.

"It's difficult because I am disabled and living on a fixed income."

After all the bills are paid, there isn't much left for any extras.

That's why Asselin is putting out a call for the community



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Fort Erie's Rejeanne Asselin is putting out a call to the community for donations of scrap metal, aluminum, pop cans and beer bottles that can be

recycled and exchanged for funds to pay for her canine companion's medical bills.

"It might not be much but it all adds up in the long run," Asselin said.

"Everyone has scrap metal, or these kinds of things lying around the house. Every little bit helps."

Asselin first noticed something was wrong with her "good companion" in January when he wasn't eating or drinking very much.

"When Tucker yawned, I noticed something was on his tongue."

Asselin "saved up a bit" so she could take her dog to a veterinarian in February for an examination.

"I live on a disability pension and there are so many things—bills, food—that you have to take care of. I had to save up what I needed to take him."

At first, the veterinarian thought Tucker might have cancer. After he was given some antibiotics and pain medication, Tucker was sent home. The swelling in Tucker's mouth eventually went down and upon further examination from the veterinarian, it became clear something was embedded

in Tucker's tongue. "You could see it was some kind of plastic," Asselin said.

The foreign object can't be removed until Asselin comes up with enough money to pay for treatment. Despite the pain medication he is given, Tucker still has difficulty eating.

"He can't eat regular dog food anymore because it's too hard," Asselin explained. "I feed him soft table scraps, anything that I can find. The food I do give him can't be too mushy, otherwise it gets stuck in his mouth."

Asselin hopes to collect enough scrap metal and recyclables to pay for her dog's surgery as soon as possible.

"You can tell he's in pain. But, Tucker is a very sweet dog," Asselin said.

"He is my protector, my guardian and my family," she added.

Anyone with scrap metal or other items can call Asselin at 905-871-6005

## Health Corner

### Breaking the excuses

As dentists, we see many different types of patients in our day-to-day practice. Many of these patients are well aware of the importance of oral health as part of an overall healthy lifestyle. However, occasionally we encounter some patients who avoid going to see their dentist for many different reasons. Here is a list of some common reasons:



Dr. John Inigo

#### 1. "I don't go to the dentist because visiting is bothering me!"

A lack of discomfort does not mean a lack of disease. Prime examples are diabetes and cancer. These are often very quiet conditions but when they become noticeable, it is usually too late to treat them or much damage may have already occurred. Most cavities and gum diseases are very quiet and go undetected. By the time individuals come see their dentist with cavities or gum diseases, they may require root canals or may even lose their teeth.

#### 2. "I don't go to the dentist because it is too expensive"

Dentistry can be expensive. However, it is important to know that preventive dentistry is much less costly than treatments that are used to correct problems resulting from oral diseases. For example, the cost for 10-15 preventive cleanings and check-ups is a fraction of the cost of filling only one tooth or losing a tooth. People who spend the least amount of money in a dental office are to be those who see their dentist regularly. This is why most insurance

#### 4. I don't go to the dentist because every time I go, my dentist finds a cavity

The fact that you are not aware of the presence of a cavity does not mean you may not have one. If you have a cavity, you have a cavity regardless of whether you go to see your dentist or not. Knowing that a cavity is present means that you as a patient are more likely to avoid experiencing toothaches and root canals especially if the cavity is detected early on.

#### 5. I don't go to the dentist because I am going to get dentures later anyway

Remember, dentures and partials are NOT true replacements for your teeth. Dentures alone are not food retaining plates that attempt to replace your teeth that are typically solid and anchored in your mouth. Also remember that dentures mean that you now have to think about what you eat or cannot eat. Ideally, it is best to avoid dentures if at all possible.

Dr. John Inigo is a practicing general dentist in Fort Erie and Ridgeway, Ontario. For more information and private advice about oral health, visit [www.inigodentistry.com](http://www.inigodentistry.com) or call 905.871.2903 or 905.894.5555.

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JOSH THOMAS Special to The Times

From left, Tim King, Cora King, Cathie King, Mayor Wayne Redekop and Anthony Lindan gathered around the Autism Ontario flag they raised at town hall in honour of World Autism Day Thursday.



## 'There's a lot of stigma regarding autism'

From Page 1

The disorder affects a person's social interactions, the way a person communicates verbally and their behavior. No person diagnosed with the disorder experiences the same challenges as it affects each person differently.

With Mayor Wayne Redekop on hand, the Autism Ontario flag was raised at town Hall for everyone to see.

World Autism Day has been officially recognized in Canada and by the United Nations since 2008. Awareness for the disorder is on the rise, but it is not nearly enough, said Cathie King, whose daughter, Cora, has been

diagnosed with Autism.

"Awareness is key, because to most people, it's a problem child not a child with a problem, and the tolerance, the understanding, the acceptance and accommodations that has to go into it is just incredible," King said.

Many people don't know the complications, challenges and frustrations children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their parents face.

"It's an all consuming thing. You always have to plan ahead. Most of the kids on the spectrum, if not all (of them) have a sensory challenge of some sort," King explained.

"It's like everything we hear is magnified to a heavy metal rock concert level. Try imag-

ining living in a society where everything sounds like a heavy metal concert all day long."

According to King, "you can only just accommodate with sensory headphones and with massage therapies to help ground their sensory systems."

Most people don't realize that if they took the time to better understand the autism spectrum, they would learn about and meet some very special people.

Take Cora for example whose memory is almost as impressive as her devotion to her favourite Star Wars character, General Grievous.

After the flag raising ceremony, Cora described her

favourite episodes of the Clone Wars television series which include "season one, episode four, Destroy Malevolence" and "season one, episode 10, Lair of Grievous," in detail. Cora also explained why her favourite character is "part cyborg."

Unfortunately, most people usually don't take that time to understand, Cora's father, Tim King said.

"There's a lot of stigma regarding autism. There's fear about these things and we just want to get past that," he said.

To learn more information about Autism Spectrum Disorders visit [www.Autismontario.com](http://www.Autismontario.com).

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## COMMUNITY

### Southridge Shelter celebrates 10 years

It's been a decade since the Southridge Church congregation converted part of their church facility into a homeless shelter – over that time they have served 250,000 meals and provided 104,000 bed nights to thousands of people in a situation of homelessness. All the while, a new way of serving the homeless, focused on building sustainable friendships, was being developed.

Tim Arnold, Outreach Director at Southridge commented that, "throughout the past decade we've found that, while people in a situation of homelessness often require the support of social programs and paid professionals, the key ingredient in

seeing their lives transformed is the love and support of unpaid, authentic, and committed friends. The outreach model at Southridge is based, therefore, on an approach where 'Friendship Makes the Difference.'

On April 1st Southridge hosted an event for community partners, stakeholders and municipal leaders. They reflected on the past ten years of being the largest provider of homelessness services to the Niagara Region, and offered a sneak peak at what's in store for the next decade including a partnership announcement with the Trillium Foundation.

For more information visit [www.southridgeshelter.ca](http://www.southridgeshelter.ca).



Anita Robertson, Eric Lamothe, Frances Hallworth from the United Way St. Catharines & District.



Brian Hutchings shares his story of how his shelter started 10 years ago when he was Commissioner of Community Services for the Niagara Region.



Darcy Belanger, former resident and current volunteer shares his story of moving from homeless to pursuing a degree at Brock University.



Tim Arnold, Outreach Director, Southridge joined by St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sennick.



Vicki Briscall has been volunteering in the kitchen at Southridge Shelter for the past 10 years.



Omar Ahmed, former shelter resident and current volunteer.



Cathy Cousins, Director, Operational Support Services, Niagara Region & Mark Carl, Executive Director, The Hope Centre.



Betty-Lou Souter, CEO, Community Care of St. Catharines & Thorold.



Photo Credits: Amanda McNaughton Photography

LET'S GROW TOGETHER

A look back at the week in Niagara.

Got an event idea? Send email to: [info@letsgrowtogether.ca](mailto:info@letsgrowtogether.ca)

### NIAGARA FOOD & WINE EXPO

Date: May 1 to May 3, Scotiabank Convention Centre, Niagara Falls  
Description: Come on out to one of Niagara's premier events. Sample hundreds of wines, beers & spirits. Local cuisine, chef demonstrations and more. Live on stage May 2 - Food Network's John Cusack, host of You Gotta Eat Here.

For more info: Please visit [niagarafoodandwineexpo.ca](http://niagarafoodandwineexpo.ca)

### HIKE FOR HOSPICE

Date: Sunday May 3, Lakeside Park, Port Dalhousie  
Description: Join us for the 13th Annual Hike for Hospice Niagara on Sunday May 3rd at Lakeside Park in Port Dalhousie. The Hike brings the community together to celebrate a life and raise awareness of hospice palliative care in Niagara.

For more info Please visit [hospiceniagara.ca](http://hospiceniagara.ca)

### SEAFOOD GALA

Date: Saturday April 11, Fallsview Casino, Niagara Falls  
Description: The Niagara College Foundation Seafood Gala is one of the premier fundraising events in the Niagara Region. More than 730 business, educational, and community leaders attended in 2014 raising \$130,000 to support NC students. We invite you to be part of our 26th Annual Seafood Gala celebration held at the beautiful Fallsview Casino Resort on Saturday, April 11, 2015.

For more info: Call (905) 735-2211, ext. 7561 or visit [ncseafodgala.wordpress.com](http://ncseafodgala.wordpress.com)

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## After asylum claim denied, family returns home

Sarah Ferguson  
Fort Erie Times

Paul and Leann DeHart were happy to be back safely on American soil last Wednesday, but they still have a difficult road ahead of them.

They have spent the last year in Canada seeking asylum with their son Matt, 30, a former U.S. soldier they believe is being unfairly persecuted by American authorities. They say their son has been falsely accused and was tortured in the U.S. while incarcerated during an espionage investigation related to his alleged involvement with the activities of online hacking groups WikiLeaks and Anonymous, and the leaking of classified government material.

When he was freed they fled to Canada and filed a request for asylum. Their refugee status in Canada was denied Feb. 1, and Matt was turned over to American authorities March 1. Paul and Leann were given "a window in which to depart," Paul said, and chose to leave last Wednesday.

The DeHarts stopped at the Canadian Duty Free to speak with reporters and a small group of supporters before crossing the Peace Bridge into the U.S., not sure what to expect when they arrived at the border, but they crossed without incident.

"I can't even say how we feel. We didn't know what would happen," Paul explained, stopping again to talk to reporters once he and his wife were on American soil.

"We were wonderfully surprised," he said.

Among the DeHarts' supporters visiting on the Canadian side and planning to cross with them was Bailey Lamson, a 24-year-old activist from London, Ont.

"It started when I read a five-part series in the National Post," Lamson said.

"I found it (Matt's story) fascinating and thought it was the most messed-up case."

Lamson said she felt it was important to stand up for Matt, who she believes has been mistreated.

"No human being should ever have to be treated like that—ever."

Lamson contacted the DeHarts via social media and asked to follow them on their journey into the U.S.

She had put a call out to people to walk over the Peace Bridge to show their support, but when few people showed up, decided to follow the DeHarts in her car. Along the

way, she tweeted and aired live video of their journey on the Facebook page Free Matt DeHart.

Lamson said she wasn't discouraged by the small turnout—she has supporters around the world, she said.

"There's a lot of people who want to be here but they can't because they don't live in Canada."

After he crossed the border, DeHart said he was relieved.

"We've got some friends that are going to meet us. We'll go see Leann's mom in Indiana."

The DeHarts will head to Tennessee to support their son, who remains in prison, awaiting his April 14 court appearance.

"(Matt) is a great guy. He's a normal human being. He's a wonderful person," DeHart said about his son.

"He came across information that was whistleblower information and he felt like he need-

ed to do something with that and that's what this is all about."

Vanessa Barrosa, a spokeswoman for the Canada Border Services Agency, confirmed that "on Feb. 5, 2015, Mr. and Mrs. Dehart's claim for refugee protection was refused."

She said protecting the safety and security of Canadians is a priority for the CBSA.

Every individual who makes a refugee claim in Canada is issued a conditional departure order by the CBSA. The CBSA then refers the case to the Immigration and Refugee Board for determination.

If the IRB finds the individual not to be a genuine refugee, the refugee claim is refused, and the departure order becomes enforceable, she said.

Charles Hawkins, a spokesman for the IRB, said "The IRB has no comment to make on the file as refugee claims are heard in private."



SARAH FERGUSON Fort Erie Times

Paul and Leann DeHart returned home last Wednesday after they were denied asylum in Canada.

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# Heritage conference to bring experts to Niagara

**Penny Coles**  
QMI Agency Niagara

The Ontario Heritage Conference will be held in Niagara-on-the-Lake this spring, bringing some of the best and brightest minds in heritage preservation to town.

Organizer Val O'Donnell says it's the first time the conference has been held in the most historic region in the province.

Expert speakers from Ontario will join others from across the country and the U.S. to talk about heritage issues, with an underlying theme of the role of heritage in economic development, says O'Donnell, who established the Niagara Heritage Alliance when Port Dalhousie was first faced, with development that was strongly opposed by heritage preservationists.

Then a member of the NOTL Conservancy, O'Donnell says she and Conservancy president Gracia Janes realized that if a development of such huge proportions could happen in Port Dalhousie, it could happen in NOTL or anywhere in the region.

The alliance became a group of volunteers from across Niagara that could speak as one voice on issues of heritage preservation and enhancement, and became a member of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario in 2012, making NOTL eligible to host the four-day annual conference.

It's an opportunity for those interested in heritage preservation, and those who serve on municipal heritage advisory committees, to learn from the experts during "wonderful, educational" presentations and workshops, to tour historic Niagara, and meet other heritage advocates.

location, should have that many people or more this year.

Most of the people who attend are planners or members of municipal advisory committees, she said.

"It's a terrible important conference, not only to heritage but to NOTL. All who come will be bringing money with them, staying in local accommodations, eating in local restaurants, so it's good for the town."

The conference events offers choices of several tours, including a wine tour, a tour of Fort George, a Niagara Parks Commission bus tour of Parks properties, a bus tour of Port Dalhousie and its "devastated" heritage district and

then a tour of the restored downtown of Thorold, and a Willowbank tour.

Sessions include talks on local heritage buildings, adaptive re-use of buildings, revitalization of main streets, the Queenston Quarry, Beaverdams Church, heritage murals, the role of government incentives, saving light-houses, and the Port Dalhousie story.

For more information about the conference, which runs from April 30 to May 3, with most of the daytime sessions at the community centre, visit [www.heritageconference.com](http://www.heritageconference.com).

There is early-bird pricing that ends April 12. [penny.coles@summedia.ca](mailto:penny.coles@summedia.ca)

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**Bouquet for town staff**  
A bouquet for the Town of Fort Erie. They came out to Elm Street to repair a broken water main. They were there in minutes and had it fixed and the water was back in no time.

**Brick for a dog owner**  
A brick for the dog owner who continues to let his or her dog poop on my lawn. Now that winter is gone, the snow can't hide those massive piles of poop any longer. Whoever keeps letting his or her dog poop on my lawn, you are disgusting. If you can't scoop and poop, you shouldn't be allowed to have a dog. How would you like it if I brought my dog to poop on your lawn?

**Bouquet for ministerial**  
Bouquet for the Fort Erie Ministerial that has been organizing and hosting Lent church services each Wednesday during the season. It's so great to see the community come together for the same cause and accept each other's differences and similarities with open arms.

**Bouquet for a mother-in-law**  
A bouquet for the most wonderful and supportive mother in law, who helped me paint every wall in our soon-to-be new home this week. I am so fortunate to be able

to ask you for help whether it is with our children, or us. You are always there and be counted on for help. We love you so much!

**Brick for bad drivers**  
A brick for the people who cut you off and then drive 20 under the speed limit

**Bouquet for navy league**  
A bouquet for the navy league in Black Creek for providing first aid/CPR training to the cadets that allowed my son to save his brother from choking.

**Bouquet for a dad**  
A bouquet for my dad, who is Superman and MacGyver all in one. He knew how to handle a water leak in my house. I don't know what I would have done without him. He is the best dad ever and I am so grateful for all his help with a long list of home repairs.

**Brick for a rude friend**  
A brick for my supposed friend who came to my house and told me my kitchen was "poorly designed" and nothing in my house was "up to code." You are rude. How would you feel if I walked into your house and told you everything in your house was wrong, or I told you your house was ugly. Didn't your mother teach you that if you can't say anything nice, than you shouldn't say anything at all. I can definitely say that I will not be inviting you over again any time soon. You are beyond rude.

Send your bricks & bouquets to:  
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# Month-long cleanup continues on Helena St.

**Tony Ricciuto**  
QMI Agency Niagara

The road closed sign on

Helena St. In Fort Erie is a simple inconvenience for some residents, but it's starting to have an impact on businesses that count

on walk-in traffic.

"It's really starting to hurt our business. People see that the road is closed, so they don't bother to

come down any further," said Bill Powell, a technician who works at Tech Services Niagara.

The business sells,

repairs and upgrades computers. It is located at 987 Helena St., a short distance from Garrison Rd., where one of the large road closed signs is situated.

On March 9, a chemical spill occurred from a building at 833 Helena St. that caused the regional road to be closed and an environmental cleanup company was brought in to clean up the spill. Niagara Region has been working with the Ministry of the Environment and the company that has been carrying out the cleanup efforts. That work has continued on a 24-hour basis.

"I'm going to be glad when the cleanup is over," said Powell, who also happens to live just down the street, and sometimes rides his bike to work.

"We are open, and we put up a sign near the bingo place, but many people don't come down here once they see the road closed sign," said Powell, who goes past that building twice a day. "I'm surprised that it's taking this long to clean things up. I saw them pull a big tank out of the ground near there and it looked pretty corroded, so it might have been there for quite some time."

The spilled materials have been identified as acetone, toluene and xylene, a solvent-type substance found in paints or adhesives. Although dangerous, officials say the chemicals pose no immediate health risks to residents.

Ron Tripp, Niagara Region's commissioner of public works, said people have been able to come and go and the closure is not related to any direct health or safety concern. The road is being kept closed to facilitate the cleanup and containment operation.

Tripp said he doesn't know when the road will be reopened but testing is continuing to determine the time when they can stop pumping from the ditch.

He said the owners of the property are a numbered company, but the name that is on the building has not operated for a number of years. The current owner was not operating a business when the spill occurred.

Work has been done to keep the containment on site. The spilled material was coming off the site into the ditch. It needed to be contained and removed. It was complicated by melting snow that was getting mixed with the contaminated liquid.

"In the coming week, we might be at a point where we don't have to remove that material any more," said Tripp.

Anthony and Sheila Sany, who have lived on Helena St. for two years and have a large pond on their property, said the Region has been keeping them informed on the progress of the cleanup, but they haven't been given any dates on when the road might be reopened.

"I know they are testing daily to make sure the contaminants are being contained," said Sheila. "At first we thought this might only be for a few days or a week, but we realize they have a job to do, and at this point we really don't have any concerns."

The couple have a large man-made pond on their property that contains fish and the Region has assured them the water will be tested.

"We will have that done just for peace of mind," said Sheila. "We also have ducks and we haven't seen any change with their behaviour or any issues with the wildlife that is around us."

Even though they live in a rural area, she said many people go for walks, so chances are quite good that the spill was noticed shortly after it occurred and the emergency response was immediate.

tony.ricciuto@sunmedia.ca



Communities-in-Bloom is committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement and the challenge of a national program, with a focus on enhancing green spaces in communities.

## Don't Reinvent the Wheel

A lot of time and energy can go into doing things that have been done or started already.

If you have an idea for an environmental project, investigate a bit and ask around. You may find that others have already begun work on it - this could save you a lot of time. You may also discover resources that exist or are similar - these can move your project along more quickly. When you come across other people who have done similar or related projects, ask them about what worked well and what didn't as this kind of feedback can really help your own progress and productivity.



## Being an Environmental Steward

Simply being interested in what is going on around you and wanting to help can be the beginning of being an environmental steward. It doesn't have to be an unpleasant duty or chore. Here are some ideas to help you get started (if you haven't already!).

## Learn More about Issues

You can start by learning more about issues, both on a local and global level. There are lots of resources you can use - books, the internet, organizations and people. There is a lot of opposing information - remember there are 2 sides to every story. When you understand both sides of a topic, it will be easier to determine what your viewpoint is and decide what actions to take.

## Use Your Natural Talents & Follow Your Heart

There is an unlimited list of causes and organizations you can involve be with, and only so much time each day or week. You don't have to do it all or alone. Using your natural abilities & what your passions are can help guide you. Make a list of all the things you're good at and love to do. The more you enjoy what you are doing the more successful you will probably be.

## Live By Example

While it can be a bit challenging to live by example, once you start, you'll find it becomes easier and easier. First, look at how you do everyday things. Make a list of what you're already doing that helps the environment, and another list of those things you could improve on or start. Begin with the things you could improve on - these will be easier to change and will motivate you to continue your efforts. With new actions, start with baby steps and be patient - it will take time to get where you want to do be. Remember that, like many things in life, this is a journey, not a destination - as long as you are moving forward, you are moving in the right direction.



Gabrielle Todd is Vice-Chair  
Communities in Bloom

To Find out more about us, "Like" our Facebook page, Fort Erie Communities in Bloom or visit us at [www.forterie.ca](http://www.forterie.ca)





# Fort Erie SPCA

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The Fort Erie SPCA would like to thank the following for their donations, time and support and making our Tribute show a success.

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**For more information, check out our Facebook Event:  
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# Niagara success stories raise money for autism

Josh Thomas  
Special to The Times

Ridgeway's Anthony Lindan has found a creative way to raise money for Autism Ontario.

The Secrets of Success Project, which was launched on April 2 to coincide with World Autism Day, gives access to 10 to 25 minute interviews with various success stories from the Niagara region. The list includes athletes, celebrities and entrepreneurs such as two-time CFL champion Sandy Anzuziata, magician Greg Frewin, former NHLer Steve Ludzik and Oscar-winning Colin Chilvers (visual effects for Superman).

People can listen to as many interviews as they want and are encouraged to make a "pay what you



Anthony Lindan

can donation."

"My thinking was, it's a different way of fundraising, were going to give you all these incredible interviews and if you can, make a donation. It's not a set amount, it's a donation," said Lindan.

The project was not originally supposed to be a Niagara centric one, but Lindan said that's what ended up happening.

"It turned into this sort of Niagara community vibe, which is fantastic. It's not necessarily what I saw it as in the beginning but it's what it turned into, a lot of these people tell their stories of success inside the Niagara Region."

Lindan began the project with the hope that people would listen and donate to Autism Ontario. While research has improved the lives of many people diagnosed with autism, Lindan believes there is room for improvement.

"You've got all these kids that if they had the proper intervention, and the early intervention is the key it could be treated, but you have kids that sit on waiting lists for four years waiting to get government services to treat their autism," Lindan

said.

"You could write a book, every parent of an autistic child has their story there is a lot of commonality in frustrations and hope and positivity and I think every parent tries the best they can every day."

Lindan believes more people should be aware of autism and how it affects families.

"It is understandable, you can't really understand what its like to have a child until you have a child, well it's the same thing with autism," Lindan said.

"You can't understand autism until you have a child with autism or know somebody with autism," he added.

All 14 success story interviews can be found online at [www.secretsofsuccessproject.com](http://www.secretsofsuccessproject.com).

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Limited time lease and finance offers available from Toyota Financial Services on approved credit. \*7.9% in price of a new 2015 Corolla S Manual Model B415BMA/2015 Camry XSE V6 Model B6111TA/2015 RAV4 LE Model B6111TA/2015 Venza V6 XLE Model B6111TA is \$23,295/\$25,000/\$25,000/\$25,000. All-in price includes freight and fees (FCE, BCF, DMV fee and air condition fee, where applicable). HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may lease for less. Based on a maximum of \$17,589/\$25,000/\$25,000/\$25,000. 7.9% equals a semi-monthly payment of \$755/\$1,250/\$1,450 for 101/101/101/101 payments with a \$1,500/\$2,000/\$2,000/\$2,000 down payment or trade-in value, when you apply the \$2,000 Customer Incentive. First semi-monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is \$30,333/\$31,425/\$31,635/\$31,635. All-in lease includes freight and fees (FCE, BCF, DMV fee and air condition fee, where applicable). HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may lease for less. Based on a maximum of \$30,000/\$40,000/\$40,000/\$40,000. Accelerated RM charge of \$2,000/\$2,000/\$2,000/\$2,000 for 60 months. If applicable. †Vehicle purchase price available for \$25,000. Off purchase price APR for 36 months available at a weekly payment of \$257 for 72 weeks. Monthly payment of \$5. Cost of borrowing is \$2 for a total obligation of \$25,000. \$5,000/\$5,000 Lease Assist on a new 2015 Corolla S Manual Model B415BMA/2015 RAV4 LE Model B6111TA is valid on Toyota retail delivery (excluding fleet sales) when leased from an Ontario Toyota dealership. Lease Assist will be applied after taxes have been charged on the full amount of the negotiated price. Vehicles meeting Lease Assist must be leased, registered and delivered between April 1 and April 30, 2015. \$2,000 Customer Incentive available on 2015 Venza FWD Model B6111TA is valid on retail customer financing. Fleet sales when leased from an Ontario Toyota dealership. Customer Incentive will take place at time of delivery, include tax and will apply after taxes have been charged on the full amount of the negotiated price. Vehicles meeting Customer Incentive must be leased, registered and delivered between April 1 and April 30, 2015. Dealer fees may be added and will be comprised of administration/possessionment fees, VIN Etching, on-site products, cold weather packages or other fees. Fees may vary by Dealer. Offers are valid between April 1 and April 30, 2015, and are subject to change without notice. All rights are reserved. Dealer may lease for less. Please see your participating Ontario Toyota Dealer for full details.



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Therapy and Alternatives for Special Children and Adults with Disabilities presents Spamalot.

Every year, the non-profit organization assembles a cast and crew that puts on a performance involving live music and movement.

This year's show will be held Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25 at the Crystal Ridge Community Centre.

This Medieval style dinner includes desert and coffee, door prizes, 50/50, raffles and more.

Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner at 6

p.m. with the show to follow.

Tickets are available at Boggio and Edwards Pharmacy in Ridgeway and Tech Services Niagara, 967 Helena St, in Fort Erie.

Tickets can also be purchased by calling Nancy Kacur at 905-894-1768 or visit [www.tascniagara.com](http://www.tascniagara.com).

All proceeds are used to support TASC programs. TASC provides opportunities for individuals of varying disability to engage with one another in an encouraging environment.

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**The Standard**



**THE TRIBUNE**



Special to The Times

Members of the Over 50 Hockey League recently celebrated the end of the league's third successful season. For more information about how to join the league next season, e-mail [fe.over50hockey@live.ca](mailto:fe.over50hockey@live.ca) or call 289-213-9063.

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## Game on



SCOTT MASKELL Special to The Times

Former NHLer Marcel Dionne was invited to drop the opening puck at the annual Ontario General Insurance Hockey Tournament at the Fort Erie Leisureplex Friday. The event is held in arenas in Fort Erie and Port Colborne in order to raise funds for Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Niagara. From left, Mike Cowan, Bill Steele, NHL Hall of Fame member Marcel Dionne, Jim Larouche, Ian McCutcheon and Matt O'Brien participated in the ceremonial puck drop.

Celebration of life  
of a very nice man

**Tom Ellis**

**Friday April 10th 2015 at 3:00pm**  
at the Penalty Box 225 Gilmore Road

I have always called Tom-e-e my friend.

But he was a friend to a  
whole lot of people in Fort Erie.

April 10<sup>th</sup> Penalty box is having a  
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We miss you Tom Ellis.

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## Skating champions



Fort Erie Times  
The 2015 Western Ontario Section STARskate Championships were held in Fort Erie from Feb. 27 to March 1. For the first time in many years, the Crystal Ridge Skating Club sent four of its skaters to the competition. From left, Cora - Ann McKinnon placed fourth, Star 5 and Karli Flake placed fifth in Pre-Intro Interpretative, Absent from photo: Ashley Backshall placed second, Star 4, and Christy Engemann placed seventh, Star 4

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# Alex Cuba to return to Sanctuary stage

I found myself quite puzzled looking outside my window seeing snow coming down - on Easter! Incredible. Spring is not moving too fast. I really hope this was winter's last attempt to hold us all in its ice cold grip. It has been way too long and too cold.

The amazingly talented Ashley MacIsaac visited our beautiful Ridgeway on March 27. And let me tell you. It was

incredible. He eased into it by playing some of his slower tunes getting every one into the right mood before he almost literally rocked our socks off. Bringing a full band this time, Ashley created such an incredible energy at The Sanctuary. Few were able to keep themselves in their seats because they were too busy stomping their feet and dancing. Mr. MacIsaac showcased



Nadine Pizzicarella

once more how a true musician works his audience. Just amazing. Thanks again for a terrific night.

Next up is Alex Cuba. This Saturday, April 11, A Multi Latin Grammy and Juno winner, he worked with well-known artists such as Ron Sexsmith, Corinne Bailey Rae and Nelly Furtado. For the latter, Cuba co-wrote more than half of the songs on Furtado's fourth studio album "Mi Plan". Alex Cuba's music is mostly influenced by Latin and African sounds mixed in with pop, funk and jazz. It is very easy on the ear and always truly heartfelt. Some tickets are still available on Ticketscene.ca.

Trailside Bar and Grill and Brimstone Brewing Company. Rose Garland is back for another awesome Earth Day party at the

Sanctuary playing tunes by The Grateful Dead, Niagara's newest jam band, Road Waves will be joining us this time around. These guys are stellar! Dust off your dancing shoes, and we'll see you there.

Mark your calendars for April 25th when Ron Hawkins of Lowest of the Low will be performing. There is only a small amount of tickets available. So if you'd like to see this show, you better get your tickets fast.

You were all so excited to see Fred Eaglesmith a couple of years ago that we decided to bring him back on May 1 warning you up for The Beerfest on May 2.

In collaboration with our friends from Regional Limousine, you will be able to grab affordable and safe rides home from our concerts. Better be safe, right?

Dear Rouge returns to the Sanctuary on May 7. They are one of the hottest bands in Canada, blowing up on the radio and playing Canada's biggest festivals this summer. Dear Rouge are a must - see.

Joining them will be the newest musical adventure from Hey Ocean's David Vertesi and Niagara's own Eleven North. Three amazing acts for only for only \$10! No hold-on in May that is for sure.

Quick announcement for The Bell Tower Sanctuary in Fort Erie if I may. We are excited for our first show ever on May 23 at the new location. Hollerado and Pkew Pkew will be joining in the fun.

Are you looking to improve your painting skills? How about a mixed level art class where you can learn different techniques. Melani Pyke offers such a class from Thursday, May 7 to June 11, 10 am to 11:30 am for only \$95 with all materials included. Please email arscouncilforerietimes@gmail.com for more info and to register.

For more information on shows and classes, please visit [www.thesanctuaryarts.org](http://www.thesanctuaryarts.org) and like us on facebook.

Nadine Pizzicarella is the event coordinator for the Sanctuary Centre for the Arts.

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# \$300,000 in tobacco seized at border

Alison Langley  
CMI Agency Niagara

What was declared as a shipment of Canada-bound toys turned out to be a tractor trailer filled with \$300,000 in tobacco. U.S. Customs and Border Protection said agents stopped a tractor trailer at the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge in December and referred the driver for secondary inspection.

The manifest listed the

cargo as toys from Massachusetts.

An exam of the trailer, however, revealed boxes of loose leaf tobacco located behind pallets of toys.

"Smugglers who think that our ports of entry are an easy target for contraband are seriously mistaken. (Homeland Security) is committed to our partnership with CBP to aggressively protect the integrity of our nation's borders," said Michael

Kennedy, acting special agent in charge of Homeland Security in Buffalo.

A subsequent investigation led by Homeland Security investigators revealed that the tobacco was being smuggled out

of the U.S. into Canada to avoid paying applicable Canadian duties.

The shipment was detained in December and after investigation it was seized on April 1 for failure to declare or manifest the tobacco that is

required under exportation laws.

"(We are) the last line of defence in the export control process," said Joseph Draganac, acting CBP port director for Buffalo.

"CBP uses its author-

ity to inspect, search, detain and seize goods being exported illegally."

No charges have been laid and the investigation continues.

alison.langley@sunmedia.ca



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# Organizer puts out call for artists for Crystal Beach showcase

**Sarah Ferguson**  
Fort Erie Times

Calling all artists, the Friends of Crystal Beach need you. The Friends of Crystal Beach will present Circle

of Art at Queen's Circle in Crystal Beach on July 25 and organizer Gayle Martineau is looking for a variety of painters, photographers, sculptors, jewellery makers and others to be featured in the

event.

"There used to be an event like this and it was very popular years ago," Martineau said.

The organizer would like to bring the arts back to Crystal Beach and she's

hoping it will become an event that families look forward to each summer.

"We're hoping that it can turn into an annual event and get bigger and better each year."

Martineau has "a

vision" that will see local artists form a circle of art displays around the perimeter of Queen's Circle.

People attending the event will be asked to fill out ballots to identify their favourite displays. The top artists will be awarded with first, second and third place ribbons.

Martineau said she is also inviting children

from local schools to display their art.

Each youngster will be given a Crystal Beach sucker from the Crystal Beach Candy Company and prizes will be awarded for various age groups.

For more information call Karen Matthews at 289-968-9002 or Martineau at 289-402-5160.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca

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**LEGALS**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS**

ALL PERSONS having claims against the Estate of KATHY L. KINGSTON, wife of the late of Fort Erie, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on or before February 22, 2015 are notified to send full particulars to the undersigned on or before April 10, 2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim they shall not have notice.

Dated the 17th day of March, 2015  
JOHN L. TEAL, Esq.  
Barriar and Solicitor,  
P.O. Box 247,  
1200 Thompson Road,  
Fort Erie, Ontario,  
L2A 5B8.  
Solicitor for the Estate Trustee.  
Edward Lusk

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Anniversaries

Anniversaries

Birthdays

Birthdays

**65th**  
**Wedding Anniversary**



Happy 65th Anniversary wishes to  
**Antonio & Sebastiana Tibello**  
 April 14, 2015  
 Love, your entire family!  
 Tami Bacci


Birthdays

Birthdays

**HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY!**



**Happy 80th Birthday, Dad!**  
 Love from all your family



Open House  
 for  
**Burdett Sisler's**  
 100th Birthday  
 Sunday, April 12th, 2015  
 1pm - 4pm at  
 Legion Br. 71, Fort Erie  
 Best wishes only.

Coming Events

Coming Events

**Rummage and Bake Sale**  
 Sat. April 11th, 2015 9am - noon  
 Windmill Point Church, 560 Stonewall Rd.  
 Ridgeway (between Hwy 3 & Dominion)  
 White elephant, clothing, many unusual  
 items! Coffee, muffins & soup available.  
 Proceeds to Mission Projects.

**APRIL FOOL SALE**  
**GILMORE LODGE**  
 50 Gilmore Rd., Ft Erie  
 Sat. April 11th, 9  
 am-1 pm

Proceeds to benefit the Residents of Gilmore Lodge  
 Come visit our **APRIL FOOL STORE** for lots of surprises  
 PICTURES - wall hangings - flowers, scenery, WHITE ELE-  
 PHANT TABLE - lots of bargains; PETS - mice for cats,  
 dog bones; GIFT SHOP - mothers day presents  
 RAFFLES, 50/50 DRAW AND MORE!  
 TUCK SHOP OPEN - coffee, sandwiches, sweets

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

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 a life honoured, for generations to come.



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**HENDERSON, Robert 'Bob'** - Bob passed away at the Gilmore Lodge Home for the Aged on Friday, April 3rd, 2015 at the age of 84. Devoted husband of over 53 years to Reta. Proud father of Peter (Nancy) of Guelph. Sadly missed by his sister Donna (Gert) Everett of Prince Albert Saskatchewan. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES** entrusted with arrangements. In keeping with Bob's wishes, cremation has taken place and there will be no service. If so desired, donations to the Alzheimer's Society or the Canadian War Amps would be appreciated. The family extend their appreciation to the entire staff of Gilmore Lodge for the compassionate and dignified care that was given to Bob.

*A Living Tribute*  
**Coming Events**

**BALLAH, Bea** - November 1, 1944 - April 3, 2015 - Passed away peacefully with her family by her side, holding hands. Bea is survived by her beloved husband Duane, son Barry (Kate), brothers Bob and Sonny and grandchildren Kevin and Jake. She will also be missed by many nieces and nephews. In honouring Bea's wishes, cremation has taken place and a private family service will be held. Special thanks to Chuck Ballah, Barb and Karl Ott, as well as Benny Mueller. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES**, 905-894-0120.

Pay your respects... on  
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Obituaries

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**LeBLANC, Mary Aurelie** - True strength is when you have a lot to cry about, but you choose to smile and take another step forward instead. After a long and courageous battle, her family wishes to announce the passing of Mary at the age of 54 on April 1st, 2015 in her home in Oakton, VA. Mary is the daughter of Jack (late) and Doris LeBlanc. She is loved and will be missed by her family: Michelle Sene, Janet and Chris Wiesner, Lerry and Cathy LeBlanc, Ron LeBlanc and Lisa LeBlanc. She is fondly remembered by her nieces and nephews: Tim, Jamie, Kyle, Crystal, Emily, Brittany, and Danica. The family wishes to thank Shara Soosa and her friends in the cancer support group. Donations to Life with Cancer (lifewithcancer@nhs.org) which provided Mary with valued support would be appreciated by the family.



**NGUYEN, Tam Thi** - Passed away peacefully at St. Catharines General Hospital on Friday, April 3, 2015 at the age of 59. Beloved wife of 21 years to Augusto Cuyagan. Devoted loved mother of Lisa and Anne Cuyagan. Tam will be lovingly remembered by her four sisters, three brothers and by many nieces and nephews. A private Funeral Mass took place on Tuesday at St. Thomas More Church with interment at a later date in Fairview Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to **PATTERSON FUNERAL HOME, 5062 Main St.** On-line condolences at [www.pattersonfuneralhome.com](http://www.pattersonfuneralhome.com)



**BRETHOUR (nee Feeny), Claire** - June 1, 1930 - Passed away in Cornwall on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at St-Joseph's Continuing Care Centre, surrounded by her family and her Quinn House Angels. Mrs. Claire Brethour nee Feeny aged 84, formerly of Huntingdon. Beloved wife of late Francis Brethour. Predeceased by her parents, John and Irene Feeny, two brothers, Maurice and John and one sister, Theresa. She leaves to mourn her children John (Kathryn) of Fort Covington, New York, Philip (Donna) of Trout River, Quebec, Debbie (Jim Wattle) of Cornwall, Ontario, Michael of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Kelly Ann of Port Colborne, Ontario and Peter (Kathy) Stevensville, Ontario. Will be sadly missed by her grandchildren Michelle, Chris, Scott, Jon, Tracy, Tyler, Brooklyn, Kaitlin, Colleen, Marlon and Rianke, her great-grandchildren Eric, Ethan, Kaleb, Wesley and Isaac. Survived by one sister Peggy (Tom) Dwyer of Chateaugay, New York and one sister-in-law, Eileen Feeny of Huntingdon, Quebec. Special aunt to Barbara Feeny of Niagara Falls and Carol Feeny (Dave Simpson) of Fort Erie. Visitations will be held at **RODRIQUE MONTPEIT & FILS FUNERAL HOME 170 rue Chateaugay** Huntingdon on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. also on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Funeral service will take place at Saint-Joseph's Church on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 11 a.m. Burial at Huntingdon St-Joseph Cemetery, 16 York St., Huntingdon, Quebec. Fondly remembered as "Grandma Claire" to many little children in the Stevensville area. A memorial service will be held at a later date at St-Joseph's Church, Snyder.



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 really lost  
 as long as you  
 remember it.



In Memoriams

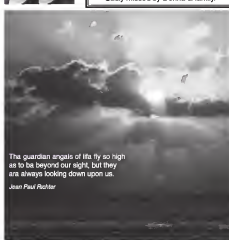
In Memoriams

**Jim Burton**

In loving memory of a dear husband,  
 grandfather and friend, who passed  
 away April 12, 2014.

His smiling way and pleasant face  
 Are a pleasure to recall;  
 He had a kindly word for each  
 And died beloved by all.  
 Some day we hope to meet him,  
 Some day we know not when,  
 To clasp his hand in the better land,  
 Never to part again.

Sadly missed by Donna &amp; family



The guardian angels of life fly so high  
 as to be beyond our sight, but they  
 are always looking down upon us.

Jean Paul Richter

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Obituaries | In Memoriam | Thanks | Births | Celebrations | More



May the stars carry your sadness away,  
May the flowers fill your heart with beauty,  
May hope forever wipe away your tears,  
And, above all, may silence make you strong.

Chief Dan George



Obituaries | In Memoriam  
Thanks | Births | Birthday  
Engagements  
Graduation | Anniversaries  
Marriage | Retirements  
Reunions | Adoptions!  
Special Occasions





**JOSH THOMAS** Special to The Times

Children at the Stevensville Garden Gallery searched for Easter Eggs, and golden eggs, Friday morning



**JOSH THOMAS** Special to The Times

Cameron Lattimer and Ella Fowler, satisfied with their collection of Easter eggs, headed back to see if they won any prizes at the Stevensville Kinettes Egg Hunt in Stevensville.



**JOE BURD** Special to The Times

Children participated in the annual Easter egg hunt at Crystal Beach Public School Saturday morning.



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